

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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TAGS: BEXP, IN

SUBJ: MELAMINE PROJECT IN ASSAM: REQUEST FOR U.S.

TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT

1. DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO NAMRUP IN ASSAM, CONGEN FSL WAS REQUESTED BY G.S. HARNAL, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ASSAM PETROCHEMICALS LTD. (APCL) TO LOCATE INTERESTED U.S. SUPPLIERS OF TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT FOR LOCAL MANUFACTURE OF MELAMINE.

2. MAIN FEATURES OF PROJECT: APCL HAS RECEIVED LETTER OF INTENT (PRELIMINARY GOI APPROVAL) FOR ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF 5,000 METRIC TONS LK MELAMINE, AND OFFICIAL CLEARANCE FOR FOREIGN COLLABORATION HAS ALSO BEEN OBTAINED. TOTAL CAPITAL COST OF MELAMINE PROJECT IS ESTIMATED ABOUT RS. 105 MILLION OF WHICH FOREIGN EXCHANGE COMPONENT IS EXPECTED ABOUT RS 35 MILLION. HARNAL INFORMED CONGEN THAT HE WOULD PREFER US TECHNOLOGY FOR CLOSED CYCLE OR TOTAL RECYCLE PROCESS BASED ON UREA (NOT REPEAT NOT "ONCE THROUGH" PROCESS FOR UREA COMPLEX) AND HE BELIEVED THAT AN AMERICAN CHEMICAL MANUFACTURER MIGHT HAVE REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY. BY TOTAL RECYCLE PROCESS HE MEANT THAT OFF-GASES DISCHARGED FROM

MELAMINE SYNTHESIS SECTION CONVERTED INTO UREA IN SMALL UREA SYNTHESIS REACTOR INTEGRATED WITH MELAMINE PLANT AND FED BACK TO MELAMINE REACTOR. HE WANTED TO ESTABLISH FIRST MELAMINE PLANT IN INDIA WITH U.S. ASSISTANCE. MELAMINE IS UNCLASSIFIED

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NOW ENTIRELY IMPORTED BY STATE TRADING CORPORATION AND

HARNAL ESTIMATED PRESENT RATE OF ANNUAL CONSUMPTION OF IMPORTS OF 800 TONS WHICH WOULD PROBABLY RISE TO 3,500 TONS BY 1981-82. HE WOULD EXPECT FURTHER THAT HIS US CO-LLABORATOR WOULD HELP APCL TO EXPORT 30 PERCENT OF TARGETTED OUTPUT OF 5,000 TONS OF MELAMINE. INTERESTED U.S. SUPPLIERS SHOULD CONTACT EITHER APCL'S CONSULTANT, INDUSTRIAL CONSULTING BUREAU PRIVATE LTD., BOMBAY OR MAY WISH TO PURCHASE TENDER DOCUMENTS COSTING RS 1,000 (\$110) FROM ASSAM INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, GAUHATI. APCL HAS ISSUED GLOBAL TENDER ON JUNE 4 (EARLIER REPORTED BY CONGEN) AND INVITED CONSULTANT FIRMS OR TENDERERS TO SUBMIT THEIR BIDS BY OCTOBER 31, 1976.

3. BACKGROUND OF PROMOTER: ASSAM PETROCHEMICALS LTD. (APCL) WHICH HAS BEEN SPONSORED BY ASSAM GOVERNMENT WITH A PAID-UP CAPITAL OF RS 30 MILLION HAS ESTABLISHED ITS NEW FACTORY AT NAMRUP IN UPPER ASSAM FOR MANUFACTURE OF MPETHANOL, FORMALIN, UREA FORMALDEHYDE ADHESIVE AND UREA FORMALDYHYDE MOULDING POWDER. PLANT WAS COMMISSIONED ON JUNE 25 BY ASSAM CHIEF MINISTER SINHA. BASED ON NATURAL GAS, UREA AND CARBON DIOXIDE WHICH ARE BEING SUPPLIED BY OIL INDIA LIMITED AND NAMRUP FERTILIZER FACTORY OF THE FERTILIZER CORPORATION OF INDIA RESPECTIVELY, APCL HAS OBTAINED DESIGN AND PROCESS TECHNOLOGIES UNDER LICENSING ARRANGEMENT WITH JAPAN GAS CHEMICAL CO. INC., A CONSTITUENT OF MITSUBISHI AND MARUBENI-AIDA CO. LTD., JAPAN. LICENSED ANNUAL CAPACITIES OF VARIOUS PRODUCTS ARE AS FOLLOWS: (I) METHANOL--7,000 METRIC TONS, (II) FORMALIN--12,000 M.T., (III) U.F. ADHESIVE (50 PERCENT CONCENTRATIONS)--12,000 M.T., (IV) U.F. ADHESIVE (65 PERCENT CONCENTRATION)--1,500 M.T., (V) U.F. MOULDING POWDER--1,000 M.T. APCL HAS REQUESTED CONGEN TO ALERT U.S. FIRMS WHICH ARE WILLING TO SUPPLY TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT FOR MANUFACTURE OF MELAMINE IN NAMRUP FACTORY.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: COMMERCE IS REQUESTED TO ADVERTISE WIDELY THIS PROPOSAL FOR U.S. TECHNICAL COLLABORATION TO APPROPRIATE U.S. FIRMS AND LOCATE INTERESTED U.S. PARTNER, IF ANY. INTERESTED FIRMS MAY BE ADVISED TO CONTACT THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, ASSAM PETROCHEMICALS LTD, NAMRUP 786621, ASSAM OR ASSAM INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD., UNCLASSIFIED

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